

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennia. Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Christ's Challenge

"And he saith unto them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
— Matthew 4:19

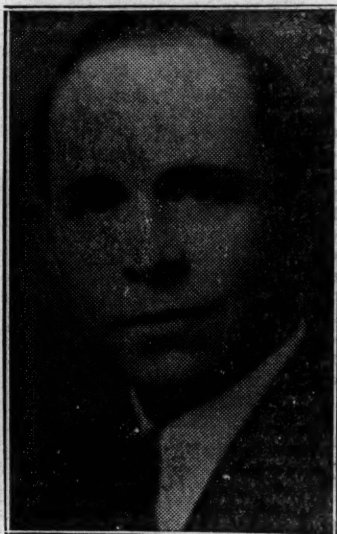
By JOE HENRY HANKINS, D.D.

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

(Preached at the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, Sunday morning, September 21, 1941, and stenographically reported.)

If you study the life of Christ and the words of the Lord that He spoke during His earthly ministry, you will find that the thing that was always uppermost in His mind and in His heart was to win lost men. If He were challenged as to His purpose in the world and as men misunderstood the purpose and mission of the Lord in coming to the world, you hear Him saying, "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." Again we hear Him saying, "The Son of man is come to seek and save that which is lost."

Men may attribute other purposes to the Lord during His earthly ministry and may magnify other things about His ministry and may praise Him as a teacher, but the one thing that the heart of the Lord centered on was winning a world from sin unto salvation. When He came to the hour of His death and the very pangs of hell got hold of his soul as He walked in the shadow of the cross and so great was the burden that the Father's voice was heard from glory speaking to comfort and to strengthen His beloved Son, the cry of the Son's heart is, "What shall I say? Father save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." The supreme concern of the risen and glorified



DR. JOE HENRY HANKINS

redeemer as well as of heaven itself is that souls might be won from sin unto salvation. That is the reason Jesus said twice in his parable in the 15th chapter of Luke, "I say unto you there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance." If you want to be certain that your life is linked up with the thing that all heaven is more con-

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The Outpouring of the Spirit

By OSWALD J. SMITH, D.D., LITT.D., F.R.G.S.

Pastor, People's Church, Toronto

It was in 1904. All Wales was aflame. The nation had drifted far from God. The spiritual conditions were low indeed. Church attendance was poor. And sin abounded on every side.

Suddenly, like an unexpected tornado, the Spirit of God swept over the land. The churches were crowded so that multitudes were unable to get in. Meetings lasted from ten in the morning until twelve at night. Three definite services were held each day. Evan Roberts was the human instrument, but there was very little preaching. Singing, testimony, and prayer, were the chief features. There were no hymn books; they had learnt the hymns in childhood. No choir, for everybody sang. No collection; and no advertising.

Nothing had ever come over Wales with such far-reaching results. Infidels were converted, drunkards, thieves, and gamblers saved; and thousands reclaimed to respectability. Confessions of awful sins were heard on every side. Old debts were paid. The theatre had to leave for want of patronage. Mules in the coal mines refused to work, being unused to kindness. In five weeks 20,000 joined the churches.

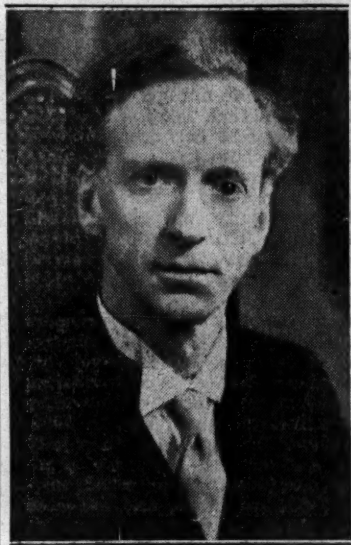
In the year 1835 Titus Coan landed on the shore belt of Hawaii. On his first tour multitudes flocked to hear him. They thronged him

so that he had scarcely time to eat. Once he preached three times before he had a chance to take breakfast. He felt that God was strangely at work.

In 1837 the slumbering fires broke out. Nearly the whole population became an audience. He was ministering to 15,000 people. Unable to reach them, they came to him, and settled down to a two years' camp meeting. There was not an hour day or night when an audience of from 2,000 to 6,000 would not rally to the signal of the bell.

There was trembling, weeping, sobbing, and loud crying for mercy, sometimes too loud for the preacher to be heard; and in hundreds of cases his hearers fell in a swoon. Some would cry out, "The two-edged sword is cutting me to pieces." The wicked scoffer who came to make sport dropped like a dog, and cried, "God has struck me!" Once while preaching in the open field to 2,000 people, a man cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" and prayed the publican's prayer, and the entire congregation took up the cry for mercy. For half an hour Mr. Coan could get no chance to speak, but had to stand still and see God work.

Quarrels were made up, drunkards reclaimed, adulterers converted, and murderers revealed and pardoned. Thieves returned stolen property. And sins of a lifetime were renounced. In one year 5,244 joined the Church. There were 1,705 baptized on one Sunday. And 2,400 sat down at the Lord's table, once sinners of the blackest type, now saints of God. And when Mr.



DR. OSWALD J. SMITH

Coan left he had himself received and baptized 11,960 persons.

In the little town of Adams, across the line, in the year 1821, a young lawyer made his way to a secluded spot in the woods to pray. God met him there and he was wondrously converted, and soon after filled with the Holy Spirit. That man was Chas. G. Finney.

The people heard about it, became deeply interested, and as though by common consent, gathered into the meeting house in the evening. Mr. Finney was present.

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Blessings of Big Prayers

Including Testimonies to Remarkable Answers to Prayer

Small prayers are the sign of weak faith, and little faith grieves God and does great harm. Remember that Jesus said more than once, in reproof, "O ye of little faith!" (Matt. 6:20; Matt. 8:26; Matt. 14:31; Matt. 16:8; and Luke 12:28). Big prayers show faith in God. And that not only pleases God, but brings other blessed results.

Glorifies God, Shows His Great Power

First, big praying gives God a chance to show His mighty power and glorify His name. In Nazareth the Lord Jesus Himself could do no mighty works because of their unbelief (Mark 6:5). God is still able, and is still willing to do mighty things; but there are so few people who ask God and believe God and expect big things. God is still the God Who brought His people out of Egypt, but we do not open our mouths wide, and we do not get big bites from God. God still has plenty of oil, but we do not furnish the empty vessels.

When Elijah called down the fire from God on Mount Carmel by his prayers, then the people fell on their faces and cried out, "The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God!" (I Kings 18:39). And so today unbelief and modernism would be defeated and scattered and multitudes would turn to God, if only there were an Elijah who

believed God and could have God's mighty power!

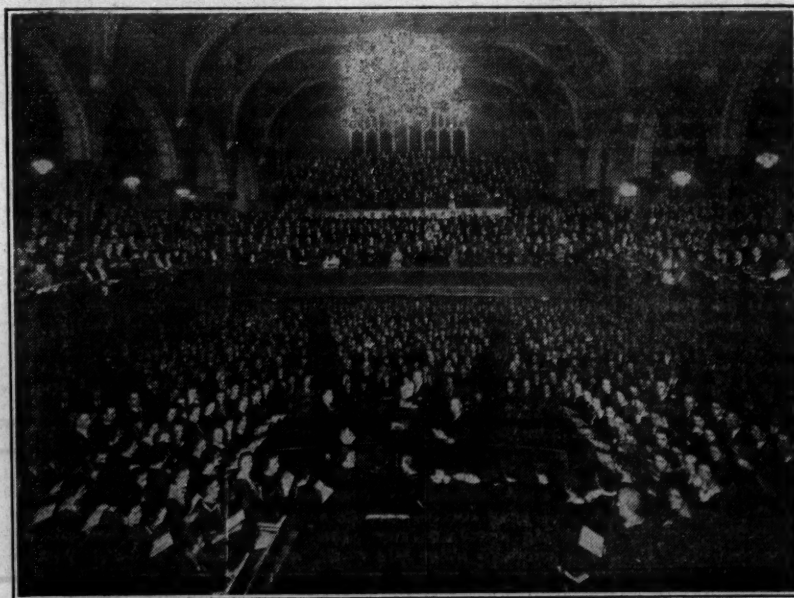
Surely God must yearn over men and long to show His power and His love. The Scripture plainly says, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." (II Chronicles 16:9). God is anxious "to show himself strong." Unbelief abounds because Christian do not give an example by asking great things of God and giving God an opportunity to manifest His mighty power.

We have just closed a campaign for trial subscriptions for *The Sword of the Lord*, the weekly Christian paper I edit. I set a goal of 5,000 trial four-month subscriptions. In the office my helpers put this goal in large letters on the wall and daily prayed for it, along with other needed blessings, in the prayer meeting each week-day morning at 10:00. 5,000 subscriptions is a good many, and my dear daughter, Grace, a freshman in Wheaton College said to me about two or three weeks ago, "Daddy, don't you think we set our goals too high, sometimes, and do not reach them?" That got on my mind and heart heavily. So in prayer I said to God, "Lord, hear my daughter's question. She is young, she hasn't tried you as often as I. Lord prove the goal is

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PRAISES!
EXACTLY 5,000 TRIAL
SUBSCRIPTIONS

The People's Church, Dr. Oswald J. Smith, Pastor, Toronto



Above is pictured the crowd at People's Church, of Toronto, Canada, where the editor is now engaged in a revival campaign. Last Sunday night the crowd was fully as great as that shown in the picture; there were about fifty standing who could not get seats and some were turned away and went elsewhere. Nine came to the inquiry room to claim Christ, and each night since some have come out for Christ. There have been some great conversions.

Dr. Oswald J. Smith has preached around the world, in Europe, Asia, Africa, the West Indies, Australia, and New Zealand. He has built a great work in Toronto. His missionary Society supports 150 missionaries, at home and abroad, in 20 countries. The People's Church has 4,600 regular contributors. Dr. Smith is the author of a good number of books which have been greatly blessed of God.

Tonight, as the first Friday night in each month, the People's Church

led by Dr. Smith will have a half night of prayer, for all the work, but particularly for this campaign. We expect great blessings. The revival effort goes through Monday night, December 15. Oh, may God send His mighty power and save many!

Dr. Smith has given us for the *Sword of the Lord* some fine material, and will give more. We will continue to publish messages by the best soul winners on the continent.

Blessings of Big Prayers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

not too high for you. Strengthen her faith, show her you answer her daddy's prayers!" I got victory about it and told her so. Now, this morning, "bless God, a letter arrived in Toronto, when I write this, from my secretary at Wheaton, saying, "Praise the Lord! He sent us 5,000 trial subscriptions! Through this morning's mail... the total reached 5,000 exactly." We expect no more. God gave exactly what we asked for, not one less nor more. My own faith is strengthened, and how happy I am for my dear children to see it. I know God will be more real to them and to my workers as He is to me today, because of this remarkable answer to prayer. Big prayers, when answered, stop doubts and glorify God, strengthening Christians and convicting sinners.

Big Praying Prospers God's Work

Next, the work of God languishes because of our small asking. Missionaries are called home, fields are closed, church congregations dwindle, revival efforts fail, all because people do not ask for mighty things from God. The Spirit of God is not manifest because people do not ask for Him to show His power. There is no doubt but that if there could come a wave of prevailing, mighty prayer, pleading with God, insisting on great things, we should have a mighty revival and the work of God would prosper.

How the Lord's work prospers when we go to God with big requests! One case I shall never forget where God gave a wonderful answer to my prayer, unworthy and unbelieving as I am. In 1938, I believe, I was called to a city in a mid-western state for a revival campaign. After much urging, I felt led to go, and expected great things from word I had received. But lo, when I arrived I found there had been no money to advertise the meetings, few knew about my coming, and besides, I was unknown. A crowd of not more than fifty, I judge, met me the first service. I had promised to stay about ten days, including one Sunday, away from my work in Dallas, my radio program, and my paper. Crowds grew slowly, a few were saved. Then the pastor asked me to stay over the second Sunday. "I cannot get you a good offering unless you stay through Sunday," he said. I replied that I did not come for the offering, that I was needed at home for the Sunday night evangelistic services at our church, needed for my Sunday radio broadcast, and that I must plan to return after Friday night. Sadly the pastor told how a heavy debt had stripped the people, another payment was about due, and if I did not stay over Sunday he feared the people could not give much. I told him not to worry, that I should not, and after the service that Thursday night I went to my room.

There in my room I faced certain facts and temptation assailed me. I had expected the offering that would be given me to go on a heavy printing bill. *The Sword of the Lord*, this weekly evangelistic paper which my Heavenly Father helps me publish, has never quite paid expenses. The price of \$1.00 a year will not pay all the postage, printing and wages of workers for such a high grade weekly paper unless the circulation runs above 10,000 copies weekly regularly. I had borrowed \$450 at the urging of a good Christian lady, for six months. It was overdue, and I must renew the note or pay it. Besides, I owed the printer \$270 for printing *The Sword of the Lord* after

Christ's Challenge

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cerned about than anything else in the universe then put your hand in a nail-scarred hand and follow Christ after the lost. Ask the Lord to make of you a soul-winner.

Then I think that not only is that the supreme concern of the heart of Christ and of heaven itself, I am sure—yes, I know—that the one

I had borrowed the \$450. Then I owed \$200 to another printer for tracts which I had been giving away by thousands. At least \$920 needed to be paid soon, and now I was told that for my ten days' work it seemed there would be little pay, and Satan taunted me with all the sacrifices I had made to carry on the burden of that soul-winning paper, putting thousands of dollars of money I could have used on my family. Satan reminded me that I had refused to ever set a price on my services, that I had no regular salary, and that now this was the way it would turn out!

With tears, that Thursday night I turned to prayer. I reminded God of a covenant I had made with Him in 1926, that He was to look after my business, and I would trust Him and look after His, "seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and believing that what I needed He would supply. I remember that I said to God, "Lord, look on the heading of that paper; it has your name on it, 'THE SWORD OF THE LORD.' Your name is in big type, mine in small type. It is your paper, not mine. I did not save myself, I did not call myself to preach. If you want a paper, you pay the bills. If you do not want that paper, then let it die. It is not my worry, it is yours. I am not going to stay with this little meeting trying to get a bigger offering, and I am not going to fret or worry. Lord, it is up to you to pay those bills!" And so, at last, with peace I went to sleep.

The next night we had some people saved. They took an offering for me. For the ten days' time, the check was \$25.00. They gave me what I asked for expenses, bare railroad fare, without Pullman berth. In sweet peace I took the train that night to Dallas. Though I sleep poorly, as a rule, unless I can stretch out and relax in a regular bed, that night I slept as sweetly as a child in the chair car. The next morning as my train, the Rock Island *Rocket* left Wichita, Kansas, the porter came through the car holding a telegram, calling my name. I took the telegram, opened it and read from my secretary, "YOU HAVE JUST RECEIVED CHECK FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR YOUR WORK!"

I walked up and down the aisles clutching that telegram, laughing, praising God in my soul. I could hardly refrain from telling the porter, the hostess, the passengers, how God hears prayer! I told old Satan what a liar he was. I told my Heavenly Father I would turn that blessed paper over to Him, and that I knew now He would take care of the bills, I promised I would love Him better than before, and oh, may He help me to do it, always!

That thousand dollars came from a man I had never seen. I had never appealed to him, of course, never had written to him, nor received a letter from him, nor have I had a letter or gift from him since, though I have since met the noble good man. And bless God I have never since been in distress about the printing bills for *The Sword of the Lord*.

How often the Lord's work suffers and languishes because we do not pray for big things and expect big answers from God! How God longs to bless His work, when we believe Him for great things!

Big Prayers Get Christians What They Need

And last, God's people live in poverty, in sickness, in disappointment and defeat, because they do not pray for big things.

I preached on prayer in Wheaton, Illinois, and the wife of a college professor came to me and said, "I have gone on living without the things I needed because I was afraid to ask God. I was ashamed of my rug with a hole in it but never thought that God

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thing the Lord desires of every redeemed soul above everything else on earth is that that soul that has been washed in the blood of Christ might be on the job trying to bring another soul home to Christ. "Follow me," is the challenge that the Lord throws out this morning to every redeemed soul around the world and to every church that names the name of Christ. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

The challenge of Christ in the text is two-fold:

1. First, "Follow me." And what a challenge it is in a day like this! O when men have seemingly lost their zeal and lost their vision and the world is following afar off and the churches have lost their first love, and when the burden for souls seems to be leaving the hearts of God's people, the challenge of the Lord today is, "Follow me." When the world is tearing down its standards, when the standards are being lowered everywhere—standards in the home, standards of Christian living are being thrown to the winds, the challenge to every child of God today is "follow me."

I pause to say this: If you follow Christ, He will not lead to a life of ease nor a life of pleasure. The trouble with the world today is that we are afraid to face the realities of life and men shun every burden and hardship they can and try to dodge or shift their responsibilities. Something has been lost from lives of men today that made our forefathers what they were—made them willing to strike out from home to a strange land and face the perils of a strange land. Men want the easy way; men want something for nothing. We have grown flabby in our spirits and don't have the courage to face life and the battles like our fathers did. We want the government to solve all our problems today. We expect the government to support us instead of supporting the government. I agree heartily with what R. G. Lee said in his message on stewardship when he was in our city last week. He said, "I am a Grover Cleveland democrat." His reason for saying that is this: During Cleveland's administration there had been a terrible drought in a great section of Texas. There was such a complete crop failure that men didn't even make seed to plant for the next year. Somebody appealed to the President to make a loan in order that their families might be able to buy seed to plant crops for another year. The President refused and said in substance: "We sympathize with the people in their plight, but we are afraid to venture on such a thing as lending money for fear that the people would get the idea that the government ought to support them instead of their supporting the government." I repeat that the trouble with us today is that we are afraid of the hard way. We are afraid of battles. We are afraid of sufferings. We are afraid of the cross. But the challenge of the Lord Jesus Christ to every one of His followers is that, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

We will never have another generation of great Christians until we are willing to take up that cross once again and pay the price to follow Christ. If you follow Him, He will never lead you into a life of ease or worldly pleasure. He will never lead you in many places where the feet of many of God's children go today, but I will tell you what He will do. Even though following Him may mean going through Gethsemane; even though as He leads He may lead you up the steep of Mount Calvary, even though following Him means that we have got to stretch self out on the cross and be crucified; even though it means that we are to travel the weary, lonesome trail alone, I tell you if you follow Christ, you will find that it is glorious every step of the way. You will find that He will give you victory in every battle. You will find that He will fill your soul with joy unspeakable and full of glory. How I wish that this soft, pleasure-seeking, ease-loving generation could but realize that the thrill of human life is not in the easy way; that the thing that makes life worth while is not being fed with a silver spoon. The thing that makes life glorious is to link your life with a cause that is worthwhile, and to know that your life and labors will not be in vain. The

thing that brings the greatest thrill is the hard-fought battle and the victory that is won with difficulty, with tears, heartaches, sacrifices and sometimes heartbreaks. But Oh, when the victory comes, it is worth the price you pay. That is real life. Follow Christ at whatever cost, deny yourself and take up your cross.

The cross of Christ is not a burden. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." It is glorious to follow Christ, to live for Christ and to fight for Christ today.

2. "I will make you fishers of men."

This is the second phase of Christ's two-fold challenge. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." The challenge is to put our hands to the greatest task in which men ever engaged. For no person has ever engaged in anything that was ever comparable in worthwhileness, in its returns in any way you could look at it to winning men to Christ. When a child of God determines in his heart and sets his soul upon being a soul-winner he has launched out on earth's greatest enterprise. That is what I want this morning by the help of God to lay on every heart here. The thing that the Lord wants most out of every one of His redeemed is to make them fishers of men. O the tragedy of a person going all through life—saved, yes, but when he comes to the end of the way not being able to look back over the way and point to one single soul and say, "I won that person to Christ."

I sat by the bedside a few years ago of an old woman 82 years of age, who was dying. She was weeping some of the most bitter tears I have ever witnessed in my life, and saying, "I don't want to die like this!" I said, "You are a Christian, aren't you?" She answered, Yes, I have been a Christian for 70 years: I was saved at the age of 12, but Brother Hankins, the thing that haunts me today is that I have been a Christian for 70 years, and now I am on my death bed and as I look back I can't recall one single soul that I have ever won to the Lord. I am ashamed to meet my Lord like this." Then again she said, "O God, I can't die like this!" But she did. I say again, the greatest task that human hands ever engaged in is that of winning people to Christ.

It is great because of the worth of a soul. I wonder sometimes if we realize the value of one soul. We are all anxious about the outcome of this great war. The minds of men are disturbed day and night wondering about what is going to be the economic conditions that shall prevail afterward. A woman said recently, "I hate to think about what is going to happen in the next depression. Sometimes I wish I could die before it comes rather than face what's out yonder." Listen, friend, of more worth and more value than all the economic systems of the world is one soul that has been won to the Lord Jesus Christ. And yet, the redeemed of God let them go to hell all around us with not half as much concern about them as about what we are going to do about our business—how things are going to be after the war is over; how we are going to pay the tax bill that is piling up, etc., etc. But souls give

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"What Shall I Give?"

BY MRS. G. RICE NUTTING

This question is uppermost in the minds of most people now. Since Christmas is the celebration of our Lord's birthday, we should give gifts pleasing to Him. He gave His life to bring salvation to us. Let us give our gifts to spread the good news. *The Sword of the Lord* is a Christian weekly paper. It carries at least two gospel sermons each week by some of the best preachers in America, besides other articles on prayer, the Holy Spirit, and right living.

Many people write us about the blessings it brings to them, and we hear often from those who are saved as the result of reading it. One wrote to tell us she was saved through the editor's sermon last week, "Come Unto Me." Pastors value it so highly many of them send it to their teachers and deacons, and some, to their whole congregation. Many churches send it to their soldier boys in camp. One woman writes, "The *Sword of the Lord* helps all the family in our daily living, helps me in my teaching, and helps my husband in his preaching."

Give *The Sword of the Lord* for Christmas. Every week your friends and loved ones will be reminded of your love for them. They will be pleased, you will be pleased, and best of all, the Lord will be pleased.

Hurry, so your friends or loved ones will get next week's issue for Christmas, and so we can write the personal letter from the editor on Christmas stationery announcing your year-long gift. Price, \$1.00 a year, or three years for \$2.00, Canadian subscription \$1.25 a year.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD makes a blessed Christmas gift. Your friends have a blessing in store when you give *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* for Christmas.

Give for Christmas . . .

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or

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BY PHIL SAINT

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Christ's Challenge

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us very little concern. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Yes, one soul is worth more than it all.

David Brainerd was right when he said, "I would rather win one soul to the Lord than to make a mountain of gold and silver for myself." No wonder that great soul winner was a happy man—so radiantly happy because he was on the job winning men to Christ everywhere he went; so happy that one day he said, "If the devil should put me in a barrel and nail the head on, I would shout, Glory! through the bung-hole." The greatest business men ever put their hands to is winning to Christ.

There is the challenge of the world's need. If God ever needed soul winners, He needs them now. This world is sick. This old world is desperately sick this morning. It is sick at heart, sick at head, sick in body and soul, and sin is eating the very heart out of it. This world needs Jesus! I read the story recently of that man and his dog team some years ago. There was an epidemic of diphtheria in far-off Alaska and word came to Washington: "Unless we get a supply of serum it looks like every child in the settlement will die." The President of the United States started a supply of serum on its way on the fastest train available. On it went until it reached a point in Alaska where there was no railroad. From miles around people came over that snow-blanketed country to wait at the depot for the coming in of that train. There was a man with a team of dogs and a sled waiting to take that serum across those snow-clad hills and valleys, frozen lakes and rivers in an effort to reach that colony with the serum. One after another the dogs became exhausted. The man's hands froze and his ears were frost-bitten. Yet he pushed on and on until finally one day the world was thrilled with the news that he had reached the little town at last with the remedy. But listen, friend,

you and I have a remedy that the world needs worse than that. You and I have the only remedy for the world today, and instead of braving the dangers of the cold, the frost bites and the sufferings of a long hard journey across snow-clad hills, we sit at ease in our comfortable homes, and let the world go to hell. God pity us! We have the biggest task God has committed to human hands, and we show more concern about everything else in the world. The challenge of Jesus Christ is, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

If I had fifty consistent soul winners—I have said it before and I say again—if I had fifty consistent soul winners in this church I would baptize a thousand people next year. That would be only twenty each. One of the leading preachers in this city stood at this altar Friday night after I had given my message Wednesday night on Winning Souls, and put his arm around me and said, "Wednesday night you drove it home to my heart more than ever before in my life, in your heart-breaking appeal for soul winners, that we are all—preachers and all—just playing at the job. We are not half trying."

Then there is the challenge to pay the price. I have already touched on that, but I say again if you are going to be a soul winner, you must pay the price of going on the altar, body, soul and spirit for Christ. You can't go at it in a half-hearted way. If you want to be a soul-winner, there's a price to pay. It takes more praying, more consecration, more tears, more separation, more patience, and more sacrifice to win people to Christ than anything you have ever undertaken in your life. It takes more self-denial, too. O there is a price to pay if you are going to win men to Christ. But it is worth every thing it costs to be a soul-winner.

Then, too, there is the challenge of the reward. The call of Christ is to the greatest reward and the greatest joy that ever came to a Christian's heart and life. The Book of God says, "They that be

wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." When God would find a symbol with which to compare the honor and glory He has for those who will accept the challenge to follow Him and become fishers of men. He goes to the realm of heaven itself and the only adequate thing that God Almighty can find to compare with the honor he will bestow upon a soul winner is to say that they will shine like the stars forever. The rewards and the honors of God, I don't know what they are. I don't know what God has in store for us. But I do know that He has said that even "a cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple will not lose its reward." God never forgets a promise. I know God has said that He is mindful of the tears we shed over a lost world, and has saved them and bottled them up. One day they will be brought out and will bring glory to Christ and joy to the heart of the child of God. I know that God has taught in His book that no prayer for a lost soul or lost world shall never be forgotten. But when Christ mounts the throne of His glory, the very first thing that is presented on that scene is an angel with a great golden censer and from it there is incense going up to the One on the throne for a sweet savor. It is the prayers of God's saints that are being presented along with the tears that have been shed for the salvation of souls.

If you want to get out of the fog of doubt; if you are living that up-and-down, hot and cold unsatisfactory Christian experience, happy today, but wondering tomorrow if you are saved; if you want to walk in the clear sunlight of the blessed assurance and sweet consciousness of the fellowship of the risen Lord, let me challenge you to come and put your hand in the nail-scarred hand of Christ and answer the call, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." I tell you doubt will be gone, and you will find that sweet consciousness of the presence of Christ every step of the way and that glorious fellowship that can only be found by following Christ after the lost.

I sat by a sick bed yesterday afternoon, and the woman said to me, "Brother Hankins, are you always conscious of the presence of the Lord?" I said, "No, not always." "But," she said, "It seems that every time I see you, you are so close to the Lord." I answered, "When I am in the sick room ministering in His name He is right by my side. For He has promised to go every step of the way with us. Sometimes I am more conscious of the presence of Christ than I am of my right hand. And when I am out after the lost I feel that I can reach out and put my hand on Him. He has promised that He will be with us always, not "will be," but "I am with you always even to the end of the world."

There is the challenge to the highest joy. Another reason this challenge of Christ is so great is because of the joy of it—the sheer joy of it. The world is going mad seeking for thrills. Everybody is running after a new thrill. If you want the greatest thrill you ever had in your life, go out and find some old sinner and bring him to Christ. Yesterday morning, my telephone rang, and I heard a woman's voice at the other end of the line. I could tell by the very tones of her voice that she was happy. She said, "Brother Hankins, are you busy?" I replied, "I am always busy, but not too busy to listen to you this morning." She said, "I am so happy, I have just won my neighbor to Christ, and I just had to call and tell you so you could share the joy with me. I am so happy!"

I shall never forget the first soul the Lord let me lead to Him. But I think that every one I have ever won to Him has brought about as much joy as the first one. The last one I had the privilege of leading out of darkness into light, I think I came just as near shouting as when the first one was saved. It never gets old, never loses its thrill.

If you want to be happy every step of the way in life; if you want the joy of the presence of Christ; if you want to walk in blessed assurance; if you want His presence and fellowship; if you would live in the sunshine of His love and

have every cloud driven away, forget the things that are behind and put your hand in the nail-scarred hand and accept the challenge of his call, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Then when you go to meet Him, it will be glorious. We like to sing that song, When the Saints Go Marching In, and we sing about meeting that dear father, brother, loving sister, and that precious mother. That is going to be a glorious time, but I tell you what I honestly believe: I believe that it will be more glorious than meeting mother and other loved ones to take some person by the hand that I have led to Christ, and hear that person say, "I am here because you won me to Christ." I think I will start shouting all over again when that happens. Paul said, "What is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" The souls that I have won will be my joy and my crown when I stand before the throne and present them to my Lord. God grant that each of us who have been redeemed by His blood may hear and accept the challenge of our Lord, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

"Pray Without Ceasing"

A friend once asked General "Stonewall" Jackson, says a writer in *Revelation*, what was his understanding of the Bible command to "pray without ceasing." "I can give you my idea of it by illustration," he answered, "if you will allow it and not think I am setting myself up as a model for others. I have so fixed the habit in my mind that I never raise a glass of water to my lips without lifting my heart to God in thanks and prayer for the water of life. Then, when we take our meals, there is grace. Whenever I drop a letter in the post office, I send a petition along with it for God's blessing upon its mission and the person to whom it is sent. When I go to my classroom and await the arrangement of the cadets in their places, that is my time in intercede with God for them. And so in every act of the day I have made the practice habitual."

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Blessings of Big Prayers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

would be pleased for me to ask for a new one. I am going home now and ask God for what I need!"

All over the world there are Christians who have no jobs because they have never asked for jobs. There are young people who cannot go to school because they have never taken the matter to God with large faith and insisted on God's showing His power. There are wives whose husbands are unsaved, there are fathers whose sons are drunkards, and yet they do not pray to God expecting mighty things, and so God does not show His power and do the things which He would so gladly do if people only prayed expectantly, prayed largely, opened their mouths wide so God could fill them!

In 1932 in Dallas, Texas, I had an old Dodge car that was worn out. The upholstery was frayed, the motor used far too much oil, and that winter we had to push the car down hill again and again to get it started. One Monday I nearly missed my radio broadcast, besides I was constantly embarrassed to have my wife and daughters and secretary pushing the car along the wintry streets, trying to get it started. So I said to Mrs. Rice, "I believe it would please God for me to ask Him for a new car." She agreed, and we laid the matter out before the Lord. I reminded God that He knew I was not laying by a penny and that I was working almost night and day trying to win souls. I reminded Him that the work was His work, not my own, and that in 1926 I had made a covenant with Him that I would look after His business and He should look after mine. And so I asked Him that in His own way He would provide me with a new automobile.

On Wednesday night I went to the service in a big furniture building where we were meeting, pending the erection of a building of our own. When the song service was done I went to the pulpit to teach the Scriptures, and a Mr. Reeves handed me an envelope containing some keys and a folded paper or two. I looked at him in bewilderment, and then at the people who were looking on in great joy; they burst into laughter and one and then another began to point to the curb out in front of the building. There stood a new Chevrolet four-door sedan, and in my hand I held the keys and warranty and title. As a surprise to me the men in the church had bought the car. I think they could not have known about my prayer; certainly I had not told them. And I knew nothing of their plans.

When we went home that night I said to my wife, "If I had known that God was as willing as that to give me an automobile, I would not have been pushing that old wreck up and down these hills, day after day, trying to get it started!"

And how many of us, dear readers, do not have even what God wants to give us, because we do

not expect much from God, do not pray big prayers. We do not open our mouths wide so He can fill them.

It is said that in a southern state at the close of the Civil war a negro slave, the body servant to a southern gentleman, was set free by Lincoln's proclamation. But his master said to him, "Sam, if you will stay with me and take care of me, I will see that you are cared for when I am gone." The old negro loved his master and agreed to stay on with him, which he did until his master died.

Afterward the colored man mowed lawns, chopped kindling, and ran errands until his legs were stiff and his body bent with rheumatism and with age. Then he could hardly get enough work to do to buy the poorest food. He lived in a little shack and hobbled about in rags.

But an old friend of his master's family said to him one day, "Sam, you don't have to live this way, your master told me that he had deposited \$5,000.00 in the bank for you. Go down to the bank and get some money to buy what you need!"

With much persuasion the timid old man was persuaded to go to the bank. With his hat turning nervously in his hand, he inquired of the teller, "Did Marse Tom sho nuff leave me some money in this here bank?" His name was inquired and the bank clerk told him yes that there was money at hand for him and that he might have it whenever he wished.

"How does it git it?" the colored man asked, and he was told how to write a check. He could not write so the teller offered to write out the check and sign his name and beside it the old man could make his mark.

"Could I have as much as fifty cents to get me a sack of meal?" he inquired, and the teller replied that he could have as much as he wanted within any reasonable limits, since there was \$5,000.00 deposited to his account in the bank.

So the former slave instructed the teller to make out a check for fifty cents, and with trembling hands he made his mark beside his name. Then he took the bright fifty cent piece and shuffled away to buy some meal, and to live in his poor little shack in his rags and poverty, leaving \$4,999.50 in the bank!

And how like us that is. Our Heavenly Father says that the gold and the silver is His and the cattle on a thousand hills. He has lovingly invited us to tell him all of our needs, "What things soever ye desire when ye pray," and promised us "great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3), if we will only call upon Him. He asks us to open our mouths wide and let Him fill them. And yet we live at a poor dying rate in our poverty; physical poverty and mental and spiritual poverty. We do not have because we do not ask. Our mouths are never full because we never open them wide!

On a Dallas, Texas, radio one Sunday morning I used the above illustration in speaking on Psalm 81:10. In Fort Worth, thirty-two miles away, a poor distressed Christian woman was up early to pray. Her prayer was about like this, "Oh, God, please give me \$2.00 or \$3.00 to pay on the gas bill. My husband doesn't have a job, we are behind on the rent, the children do not have enough clothes for school, and I think it will break my heart if they cut off the gas and we have no heat in this winter weather. Please, Lord, I don't ask much, give me \$2.00 or \$3.00 to pay on the gas bill so they won't cut off the gas!"

She arose from her knees, turned on the radio and listened to me in the morning broadcast when I urged Christians to open their mouths wide and told how this old darky got fifty cents when he could have had any amount up to \$5,000.

She snapped off the radio and fell on her knees and began to pray. And this is the way she prayed this time, "Oh, God, forgive me for just asking for \$2.00 or \$3.00. You are not poor! You are able to give all we need. Then give my husband a job like other men have! Let us pay the rent and pay all of the gas bill. Give my children school clothes, Lord, many an unsaved mother sends her children to school well clothed. And you have plenty; give my husband a job and let us have what we need, and

THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

The Spirit of God came on them in mighty, convicting power, and a Revival started. It then spread to the surrounding country until, finally, nearly the whole of the Eastern States was held in the grip of a mighty Awakening. Whenever Mr. Finney preached the Spirit was poured out. Frequently God went before him so that when he arrived at the place he found the people already crying out for mercy.

Sometimes the conviction of sin was so great and caused such fearful wails of anguish that he had to stop preaching until it subsided. Ministers and church members were converted. Sinners were reclaimed by thousands. And for years the mighty work of grace went on. Men had never witnessed the like in their lives before.

* * * *

I have called to your minds three historical incidents of the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Hundreds of others might be cited. But these are sufficient to show what I mean. And this is what we need today more than anything else. When I remember that such an Outpouring has come to China, India, Korea, Africa, England, Wales, the States, the Islands of the Seas, and many other places, but that Canada, our Dominion, our own beloved country, has never in its history experienced a national Revival, my heart cries out to God for such a Manifestation of Himself.

Do we need it? Listen! How many of our churches are more than half empty Sunday after Sunday? What a multitude there are who never enter God's house? How many mid-week prayer meetings are alive and prosperous? Where is the hunger for spiritual things?

And Missions—the lands beyond the seas, heathen darkness—what are we doing? Does the fact that multitudes are perishing ever cause us an anxious thought? Have we grown selfish?

What about the tremendous wealth that God has given us? Take the United States as an example, the richest nation in the world today, and the major portion of her wealth in the hands of professing Christians. And yet the United States spent more on gum in one year than she spent on Missions. How many Christians are giving God even the tenth of what He gives them?

Then take our colleges and seminaries, both at home and on the mission field where higher criticism is taught. We are told that Jesus never performed any miracles, never rose from the dead, and was not born of a virgin, did not die as our Substitute, and is not coming again.

How many professing Christians are living the Christ-life before men? Oh, how like the world we are becoming! How little opposition do we find! Where are the persecutions that were heaped on the Early Church? How easy it is now to be a Christian!

And what of the Ministry? Does the minister grip, convert, and save by his message? How many souls

forgive me for asking so little and expecting so little!"

On the following Tuesday morning we had testimonies in a Bible Conference service at Dallas. From Fort Worth came Mrs. Frank Williams. She stood, and with tears running down her cheeks, she told of the woman and her despairing cry for \$2.00 or \$3.00, then the change in her prayer. And then Mrs. Williams said, "This morning that man went back to work at a full-time job! Already arrangements have been made about the gas bill and the rent, and that mother's prayer has been answered!"

We have a great God. There is nothing too hard for God. He loves us. He wants us to have all we need. Will you today take to heart His blessed promises and begin to pray the kind of prayers that will allow God to do the wonderful things He wants to do for you? Remember what He has promised.

"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10).

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

are won through the preaching of the Word? Oh my friends, we are loaded down with countless church activities, while the real work of the Church, that of evangelizing the world and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected.

Where is the conviction of sin we used to know? Is it a thing of the past? Let us look at one of Finney's meetings. Oh, that we could repeat it today. He tells us that one time when he was conducting meetings in Antwerp, an old man invited him to preach in a small school house near by. When he arrived the place was packed so that he could barely find standing room near the door. He spoke for a long time. At last he began to press home upon them the fact that they were an ungodly community; for they held no services in their district. All at once they were stricken with conviction. The Spirit of God came like a thunderbolt upon them. One by one they fell on their knees, or prostrate on the floor, crying for mercy. In two minutes they were all down, and Mr. Finney had to stop preaching for he was unable to make himself heard. At last he got the attention of the old man who was sitting in the middle of the room and gazing around him in utter amazement, and shouted to him at the top of his voice to pray. Then taking them one by one he pointed them to Jesus. The old man took charge of the meeting while he went to another. All night it continued, so deep was the conviction of sin. The results were permanent, and one of the young converts became a most successful minister of the gospel.

Ah, yes, men have forgotten God. Sin flourishes on every side. And the pulpit fails to grip. And I know of nothing less than the Outpouring of His Spirit that can meet the situation. Such a Revival has transformed scores and hundreds of communities, it can transform ours.

Now, how may we secure such an Outpouring of the Spirit? You answer, by prayer. True, but there is something before prayer. We will have to deal first of all with the question of sin; for unless our lives are right in the sight of God, unless sin has been put away, we may pray until doomsday, and the Revival will never come. "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you so that He will not hear." (Isa. lix:2).

Probably our best guide just here is the prophecy of Joel. Let us look at it. It is a call to repentance. God is anxious to bless His people, but sin has withheld the blessing. And, so, in His love and compassion He brings a fearful judgment upon them. We have it described in chapters one and two. It has almost reached the gates of the city. But see—how great is His love! Notice verses twelve to fourteen of chapter two, where He says, "Turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth

Him of the evil. Who knoweth if He will turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind Him?"

Now my friend, I don't know what your sin is. You know and God knows. But I want you to think about it, for you may as well stop praying and rise from you knees until you have dealt with it, and put it away. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Let God search your heart and reveal the hindrance. Sin must be confessed and put away.

It may be you will have to forsake some cherished idol. It may be you will have to make restitution. Perhaps you are withholding from God, robbing Him of His own. But this is your affair, not mine. It lies between you and God.

Now notice verses fifteen to seventeen. The prophet has called for a prayer meeting. Sin has been confessed and forsaken. Now they may pray. And they are to entreat God for His own name's sake, lest the nations say, "Where is their God?" They are dead in earnest now and their prayer is going to prevail. Listen! "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation; assemble the elders, gather the children. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

Ah! my brethren, are you praying? Do you plead with God for this city? Are you beseeching Him night and day for an Outpouring of His Spirit? For now is the hour to pray. We are told of a time in the work of Finney, when the Revival had died out. He then made a covenant with the young people to pray at sunrise, noon and sunset in their closets for one week. The Spirit was poured out again, and before the week ended the meetings were thronged.

And, of course, it must be believing prayer, prayer that expects. If God stirs up hearts to pray for a Revival it is a sure sign that He wants to send one, and He is always true to His word. "There shall be showers of blessing." His promises never fail. Have we faith? Do we expect an Awakening?

Now notice the speedy answer in verse eighteen. "Then!" After they had forsaken sin and cried unto God in prayer. "Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people." The answer is not long in coming once the conditions have been met. We have it fully described in verses twenty-eight to twenty-nine: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the hand-maids in those days will I pour out my Spirit."

Oh, my brethren, the trouble is not with God. It lies right here with ourselves. He is willing, more than willing. But we are not ready. And He is waiting for us. Are we going to keep Him waiting long?

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